

Capital Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 23, 2014

In attendance were:

Steve Andrew
Andrew Flanagan
Charles Foskett
Mike Morse
Brian Rehrig
Diane Johnson
Ruth Lewis
Anthony Lionetta
Barbara Thornton

* Denotes those not in attendance

- **Meeting Opened:** Agenda and other materials were distributed. Minutes of the December 11 meeting were reviewed and approved, as is.
- **CPA Background/Implementation:** Brian Rehrig presented information on the implementation time line for the CPA Committee and the CPA program. Funds from the program will not be available for expenditure until FY 2017. Brian also provided copies of presentation slides used by a few of the selectmen (during the campaign), which put forth the concept of reducing Capital Plan / Budget funds by the amount of money shifted to the CPA and then transferring this amount to the stabilization fund. The idea being to perhaps delay the timing of the next override.

The CPC is not in full agreement with this approach for a number of reasons. It was stressed that this concept was not voted on by the Board of Selectmen. Also noted was that the CPC is appointed by the Town Meeting. Charlie Foskett provided a spreadsheet demonstrating that this concept has adverse consequences to the overall Capital Plan and would endanger projects, in particular, the attempt to fund Stratton School Renovation. This approach would likely increase the overall short term tax impact on taxpayers.

- **Overview of Capital Plan.** Andrew Flanagan presented a worksheet demonstrating a sensitivity analysis on the plan in an attempt balance it (currently the plan is over by \$4 million). Various assumptions were made including use of extended amortization for the building projects, borrowing for the roadway program rather than using cash, moving projects to CPA as well as using other funds. Even with the above, the plan is still over-programmed by \$750k. Andrew provided a copy of the lastest draft Capital Plan with projects eligible for CPA funding highlighted.
- **IT Requests:** Steve Andrew reported on the Subcommittee's review of IT Requests. (written memo provided). The subcommittee recommends approval of requests except for the School Department's request for an additional \$200,840 over the planned \$200,000 annual allocation in the current plan (raised from the annual \$125k previously provided)

There seems to be confusion on the “one-time” adjustment issue, one time being last year when \$452k was approved. Diane Johnston offered to trade off the requests for Snow Cat (\$125k in FY16) and Furniture Replacement in the old hall (\$110k in FY16), for this additional \$200k. The CPC will take this under consideration. Tony Lionetta raised questions on the student to computer ratio and whether the typically assumed service life criteria for computers is still valid and reasonable.

- **Committee Review of the Capital Plan:** The draft plan was reviewed by the Committee in an effort to bring the Plan into alignment. A number of adjustments were made. These included: moving out School Bus Replacements; deleting Furniture Replacement for the old hall; reducing funds for Mass Ave Streetscape Phase 2 (from \$100k to \$25k), which is viewed as excessive; reducing the request of additional roadway enhancements in the cemetery (from \$250k to \$75k), which is viewed as not warranted; however is a commitment from the Town Manager to Town Meeting; and reducing the request for Assessment and Development of Plans for improvements at the Senior Center (\$80k to \$25k) in that this is a two-step process and the \$25k would allow for the assessment. The assessment will yield project design and construction costs for evaluation next year. Other adjustments include moving the replacement of Peirce Field turf to 2016 and; deleting and replacing the School Department Snow Cat and Old Hall requests with the additional computer request, as requested by Diane Johnson.

This process brought the plan into near alignment (although overage issues are still projected in FY17 & 18). Andrew Flanagan will review and provide an updated document for further review by the CPC.

- **Next meeting:** January 8, 2015

Adjournment